

Covenant School of Nursing  
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment  
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Mindy Ojeda

Date: 03/29/2024

DAS Assignment # 1

Name of the defendant: Deborah Cruse, RN

License number of the defendant: 824386

Date action was taken against the license: 08/13/2019

Type of action taken against the license: Revoked

- *Use the space below to describe the events which led to the action(s) taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.*

*Debrah Cruse had multiple occurrences in a clinical setting that started back in 2018 in Arizona. This unprofessional action included her refusing to count the narcotics of incoming patients, was involved in a controlled substance discrepancy, making concerning and irrational statements to patients, and taking the medications at a time when medications were not scheduled to be given. She also struggled with administering medications and had to take a second orientation class for traveling nurse but was terminated due to lack of knowledge. In all Debrah was stealing the patients' medications and taking them herself.*

- *Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient if harm occurred.*

*Reading back at her case I think that Debrah took full advantage of her patients because they were in a psychiatric hospital. I think there should have been a second nurse on to help make sure that the controlled substances that patients were coming in with were all accounted for. I believe after the first incident that Deborah should have gone through an education course before she could continue working with patients. Deborah was recorded in the med room that day opening the medication package and putting the meds in her pocket. She was also given a drug test the next day where she was positive for both controlled substances but only had a prescription for one med. I do believe that in this occurrence every action was done the way it should have been. Debrah was caught and addressed as soon as they were aware, and actions were taken immediately so she could not continue stealing meds from the med room.*

- *Identify ALL universal competencies that were violated and explain how.*

**Safety and Security** was violated when Debrah refused to count narcotics as patients were being admitted into the facility. Debrah was taking controlled meds that were not hers and making it unsafe for her or her patients due to the meds affecting her cognitive function and judgment.

**Communication** was violated when Debrah was making religious gestures towards her patients making them feel unsafe and uncomfortable.

**Critical Thinking** was violated when Deborah chose to take controlled substances that were not prescribed to her while she had patients under her care. Not following medication protocols.

- Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described. In other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.

If I was the first person to see that Debrah was stealing narcotics from patients, I would have gone straight to the charge nurse and informed them what I had seen that way med count would have been done immediately. I would have addressed her about her talking to the patient about her religious beliefs because not everyone believes the same. I would have my eyes and ears open at all times ensuring that all safety and protocols were met.